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	Examiner Name	R. Riquelme, D.
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Firm or Individual name	Daniel R. McClure, for Thomas, Royden, Horstemeier & Risley LLP
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Application of Thomas D. Petite
Ser. No. 08/910,980



AF / GP 2876
4B

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re Application of:

Thomas D. Petite

Serial No.: 08/910,980

Filed: August 7, 1997

For: Transmitter for Automatically
Communicating Information to a
Communication Device

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Group Art Unit: 2876

Examiner: D. Rodriguez

Docket No. 81607-1012

ORIGINAL

APPEAL BRIEF UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.192

Honorable Commissioner of
Patents and Trademarks
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

This is an appeal from the decision of Examiner Douglas X. Rodriguez, Group
Art Unit 2876, finally rejecting all of the claims in the present application and making the
rejection final.

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I. REAL PARTY IN INTEREST

Thomas D. Petite of 6586 Oakwood Drive, Douglasville, Georgia 30135 is the

inventor and owner of the present application. However, Mr. Petite is President of

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Application of Thomas D. Petite
Ser. No. 08/910,980

StatSignal Systems, Inc., of 6065 Roswell Road, Suite 805, Atlanta, Georgia 30328, and will likely assign some or all rights in the present application to StatSignal Systems, Inc.

II. RELATED APPEALS AND INTERFERENCES

There are no related appeals or interferences that will affect the outcome of this appeal. The present application is a continuation in part of U.S. patent applications serial numbers 08/825,576 filed March 31, 1997, and 08/895,720 (now U.S. patent 5,926,530), filed July 17, 1997. Application serial number 08/825,576 is presently under appeal.

III. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-16 are pending in the application. An Office Action mailed June 22, 1999, finally rejected all claims 1-16 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,221,838 to Gutman *et al.* (hereafter Gutman). Additionally, the Office Action rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention. The Applicant hereby appeals the foregoing final rejections.

IV. STATUS OF AMENDMENTS

Applicant's Second Amendment and Response to the Office Action of June 22, 1999; filed on September 22, 1999, was not entered for allegedly raising new issues that would require further consideration and/or search.

V. SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

The present invention is generally directed to a system for providing the transmission of user identification (*e.g.*, account/billing information) to a communicating device, such as a telephone. In accordance with one aspect of the invention, the system includes a telephone (reference numeral 11 FIG. 1B and page 6, line 12), and receiving means (receiving unit 18 illustrated in FIG. 1A; RF receiver 50 illustrated in FIG. 2; page 13, lines 9-10) provided at the telephone for receiving data transmitted via electromagnetic waves. Although not necessary for the invention, in a preferred embodiment, the telephone includes a card reader (card receiving slot 14 illustrated in FIG. 1A; page 2, line 4; page 3, line 20; page 7, lines 2-7) for receiving and reading magnetically encoded cards. In this embodiment, the receiving means is operatively and electrically connected to the card reader, so as to allow the system to operate either by access from a remote transmitter (reference numeral 48 in FIG. 2; page 4, lines 3, 7) or by way of an inserted card. The system of the invention further includes a remote access unit (page 4, lines 2, 4, and 12) having a memory (reference numeral 42 in FIG. 2; page

11, lines 2, 15) configured to store user identification data (page 4, lines 3-7) and a low-power transmitter adapted to transmit the user identification data (page 11, lines 13-16) to the receiving means. The remote access unit is manually operated by a transmit button (reference numeral 22 in FIG. 2; page 4, lines 5, 10; page 8, lines 7, 16), which, when depressed, causes a controller (reference numeral 46 in FIG. 2; page 11, lines 7, 10, 12, and 14) to retrieve user identification data from the memory and transmit the user identification data from the low-power transmitter.

In accordance the invention, the system communicates information to a communicating device, such as a telephone (see page 3, line 18). However, the device could more broadly be a computer/modem, an ISDN converter, a cable box, *etc.* (see page 4, lines 11-17). For example, a computer user dialing out to a remote, or long distance location, may supply the modem with the calling card number for billing simply by pressing the transmit button. In a similar fashion, billing information may be communicated to a cable box. Recent technology developments are expanding the use of cable services, and two-way interactive cable services are rapidly approaching. In such uses, depending upon the application, it may be desirable to transmit billing or account information from a customer premise. A transmitter, constructed in accordance with the invention, may be used to provide this capability.

VI. CONCISE STATEMENT OF THE ISSUES PRESENTED FOR REVIEW

The issue in this appeal is whether claims 1-16 are unpatentable under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

VII. GROUPING OF THE CLAIMS

The claims can generally be divided into five (5) claim groupings, as set out below. For purposes of the argument set forth in this appeal brief, one claim from each group will be evaluated and discussed in connection with the prior art. The claim groups include:

- (1) Claim Group I, which comprises claims 1-8; which stand or fall together;
- (2) Claim Group II, which comprises claims 9-11 and 15; which stand or fall together;
- (3) Claim Group III, which comprises claims 12 and 13, which stand or fall together;
- (4) Claim Group IV, which comprises claim 14; and
- (5) Claim Group V, which comprises claim 16.

Reasons that Claim Groups do not Stand of Fall Together

Although, in reality, all claims of an application are distinct, Applicant has grouped the claims of the present application into five distinct claim groups. One claim

for each group has been chosen as the exemplary claim. The reason that these claims for any given group do not stand or fall with any claims of another group is, ultimately, because they are of differing scope. This differing scope is more specifically set out below.

In regard to Claim Group I, claim 1 includes, "a remote access unit ... having a manually-operated transmit button and a controller, responsive to the transmit button, to controllably retrieve user identification data from the memory and transmit the user identification data from the low-power transmitter." This limitation is not present in any other claim of the breadth of claim 1. Accordingly, this claim group does not stand or fall with any other claim group.

In regard to Claim Group 2, claim 9 addresses, "A method for transmitting information to a communication device comprising the steps of: ... formatting the retrieved user identification information into a predefined signal for transmission; transmitting a low-power electromagnetic signal including the formatted user identification information ..." Claim 15 addresses a computer readable storage medium containing program code for transmitting user identification information to a communication device comprising method steps of similar scope to claim 9. No other method claim appears in any other claim group. Accordingly, these claims do not stand or fall with any other claim group.

In regard to Claim Group III, claim 12 contains a comparable claim to claim 1, except that claim 12 addresses a system for, "providing remote access to a communication device, ..." and specifically claims, "a communication device;" as an element of the claim, whereas claim 1 recites, "A system for transmitting billing information to a communication device, ..." Furthermore, the receiver element of claim 1 is set out in means plus function format. Therefore, the scope and coverage of claims 1 and 12 are not coextensive. Since the claim coverage is not coextensive, the claims do not stand or fall together. Accordingly, this claim group does not stand or fall with any other claim group.

In regard to Claim Group 4, claim 14 contains a comparable claim to claim 12, except that claim 14 addresses, "A computer readable storage medium containing program code for controlling the operation of a system for transmitting billing information ..." whereas claim 12 recites, "A system for providing remote access to a communication device, ..." Furthermore, the receiver element of claim 14 is set out in means plus function format. Therefore, the scope and coverage of claims 14 and 12 are not coextensive. Claim 14 is also patentably distinguishable from claim 1. In this regard, claim 1 addresses, "A system for transmitting billing information to a communication device," and claims receiving means and a remote access unit. Claim 14 is of a narrower scope than claim 1, in that claim 14 further claims, "a communication device;

...” Since the claim coverage is not coextensive, the claims do not stand or fall together.

Accordingly, this claim group does not stand or fall with any other claim group.

In regard to Claim Group V, claim 16 includes the following limitation: “a communication device disposed for communication with a financial institution via a telecommunication link; ...” No other claim from any other claim grouping contains this limitation. Accordingly, this claim group does not stand or fall with any other claim group.

VIII. ARGUMENT

A. Fundamental Distinction of Prior Art Reference Used to Reject All Claims 1-16

Before specifically discussing each of the individual claim groups rejected by the Office Action, a preliminary discussion of a fundamental difference between Applicant’s invention and the Gutman reference is appropriate. In this regard, there is at least one fundamental distinction between the Applicant’s invention and the Gutman reference; namely, Applicant’s invention is directed to a low-power RF transmitter (“remote access unit”) that communicates financial information to a nearby communication device, such as a telephone 11. The essence of the Applicant’s invention is the ability to communicate personal financial information and user identification information via a low-power RF electromagnetic link to a nearby communication device, which can then relay the

information to a financial institution, via PSTN, cellular link, or other appropriate telecommunication link.

The Gutman reference wholly fails to teach this inventive essence, as there is no low-power RF communication link taught or otherwise disclosed by that reference. Instead, Gutman appears to disclose the communication of financial information from an "electronic wallet" to a financial institution. To better appreciate the Applicant's invention, in relation to the Gutman reference, the Applicant's invention could be utilized to communicate financial information to the electronic wallet of Gutman (assuming the electronic wallet was configured to include an RF receiver), which could then relay this information to a financial institution.

As will be more fully discussed below, this fundamental limitation is present in each of the independent claims, and is more specifically discussed below.

B. Rejection of All Claims 1-16

1. Preliminary Discussion of Claim Rejections

It is well established that "anticipation requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of each element of the claim under consideration." *W. L. Gore and Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc.*, 721 F.2d 1540, 220 U.S.P.Q. 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983). As previously mentioned, independent claim 1 specifically claims "receiving means ...". This claim element, therefore, is a means plus function

Application of Thomas D. Petite
Ser. No. 08/910,980

element, and must be construed in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §112, sixth paragraph. Specifically, this element must be construed to cover only the structure disclosed in the specification and the equivalents thereof. In this regard, Applicant hereby invokes the claim construction mandate set forth in the case of *In re Donaldson Co., Inc.*, 16 F.3d 1189, 1193 (Fed. Cir. 1994)(*en banc*).

Specifically, *In re Donaldson* provides that “[T]he plain and unambiguous meaning of paragraph six is that one construing means-plus-function language in a claim must look to the specification and interpret that language in light of the corresponding structure, material, or acts described therein, and equivalents thereof, to the extent that the specification provides such disclosure.” *In re Donaldson Co., Inc.*, 16 F.3d 1189, 1193 (Fed. Cir. 1994)(*en banc*). “The broadest reasonable interpretation that an examiner may give means-plus-function language is that statutorily mandated in paragraph six. Accordingly, the PTO may not disregard the structure disclosed in the specification corresponding to such language when rendering a patentability determination.” *In re Donaldson* at 1194-1195.

The “receiving means” claimed in Applicant’s specification is disclosed as a RF receiver (reference numeral 50 of FIG. 2). In contrast, the Office Action has stated,

Gutman discloses a system for transmitting billing information to a communication device comprising: receiving means (512) operatively associated with a communication device for receiving data (fig. 5B), and a remote access device (510) ...

Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Applying the means plus function analysis required by *In re Donaldson* to Gutman, reveals that Gutman lacks the structure, material, or acts described therein, and equivalents thereof that disclose receiving means. Specifically, FIG. 5B of Gutman discloses the electronic wallet 510 of that invention, in communication with a "Financial Institution" (reference numeral 512). The Office Action has cited the Financial Institution as teaching the "receiving means" of the claimed invention. As noted above, however, the receiving means of the present invention is a RF receiver, that is configured to receive electromagnetic waves from an RF transmitter. Therefore, the rejection is misplaced.

Since the presently claimed invention is directed to a communication device configured to receive personal identification and financial information in a low-power RF transmission (the "receiving means"), the Gutman "electronic wallet" cannot and does not anticipate or otherwise render unpatentable the presently claimed invention.

Having set forth this general but fundamental difference between Gutman and the Applicant's invention, Applicant will specifically address the application of Gutman against the various claim groups, and point out reasons why each of the claim groups patently define over Gutman.

2. **Discussion of Claim Group I**

Claim Group I comprises independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-8, that depend from claim 1. Therefore, claim 1 is the relevant claim for discussion within this group. Independent claim 1 is as follows:

1. A system for transmitting billing information to a communication device, comprising:
receiving means operatively associated with the communication device for receiving data transmitted via a electromagnetic waves; and
a remote access unit having a memory configured to store user identification data and **a low-power transmitter adapted to transmit the user identification data to the receiving means via electromagnetic waves**, the remote access unit further having a manually-operated transmit button and a controller, responsive to the transmit button, to controllably retrieve user identification data from the memory and transmit the user identification data from the low-power transmitter.

(Emphasis added)

Gutman fails to disclose at least the features that are emphasized above.

Particularly, *Gutman* fails to disclose the “receiving means operatively associated with the communication device for receiving (user identification) data transmitted via a electromagnetic waves; . . .” *Gutman* not only fails to disclose the claimed functionality, but *Gutman* further fails to disclose structure that is claimed, and that imparts the claimed functionality. In this regard, Applicant notes that claim 1 is set forth in “means for” format and, therefore, must be construed in accordance with 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraph 6, as further described in *In re Donaldson* 16 F.3d 1189, 29 U.S.P.Q.2d 1845 (Fed. Cir.

1994)(*en banc*). Therefore, Applicant's "means for receiving" element must be construed in accordance with the structure set forth in the present specification.

Applicant acknowledges that "limitations appearing in the specification are *not* to be read into the claims of an application." However, Applicant notes that, in *In re Donaldson*, the Federal Circuit held, as a matter of law, that "one construing means-plus-function language in a claim must look to the specification and interpret that language in light of the corresponding structure ... described therein, and equivalents thereof. *In re Donaldson* at 1848. Furthermore, the holding in *In re Donaldson* does not conflict with the principle that claims are to be given their broadest reasonable interpretation during prosecution. *In re Donaldson* at 1850.

Accordingly, the "means for receiving" element must be construed in accordance with the embodiment disclosed in the present specification and its equivalents. Furthermore, it must have a substantially similar function: namely, "receiving user identification information for forwarding to a financial institution." Applying this analysis to Gutman reveals that Gutman's "electronic wallet" receives transaction confirmation information from a remotely located transmitter.

In addition, claim 1 specifies that the receiving means is configured to receive data transmitted via electromagnetic waves. There is no such teaching within Gutman. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the Gutman reference has been misapplied, in the context of the present invention.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that, as applied, Gutman fails to disclose the "communication device" of the claimed invention. As set forth in the present specification (*e.g.*, page 7, lines 15-19), the communication device of the present invention is a device capable of communicating across a telecommunication link, such as the PSTN or even a cellular link. The "communication device" limitation is present in both the preamble, as well as the body of claim 1, and therefore cannot be ignored. To further the proper interpretation of this claim feature, Applicant references dependent claim 8, which depends from claim 1 and specifies that the communication device is either a telephone 11, a modem, an ISDN (integrated services digital network) converter, or a cable converter box. Well established rules of claim construction dictate that the scope of an independent claim (*i.e.*, claim 1) must be construed in light of other claims. This basic canon of claim construction, along with the Doctrine of Claim Differentiation, requires that the communication device, as set forth in claim 1 be so construed. If the Patent Office construes the "Financial Institution" as comprising the "communication device", then it must cite an appropriate teaching of an RF receiver within the Financial Institution.

Applicant submits that a person of ordinary skill in the art would interpret the teachings of Gutman, and particularly Fig. 5B therein, as defining a telecommunication link (such as a PSTN link, or a network connection) between the electronic wallet 510

and the Financial Institution 512. This link would not be construed as an electromagnetic link, as claimed in the present invention.

Indeed, the essence of the present invention is the communication of financial information to a communication device connected to a telecommunications network, which would then relay the information to a Financial Institution. The electronic wallet of the Gutman reference would be analogous to the communication device of the claimed invention. In this regard, Gutman fails to teach, however, the remote access unit of the present invention.

In light of these fundamental differences, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 and dependent claims 2-8 are patentably distinct in light of Gutman. If the Office Action's rejection of claim 1 is determined to be misplaced, then claim 1 (Claim Group I) will be allowable, independent of the remainder of the claims. For at least this reason, claim 1 does not stand or fall with the claims of any other claim group.

3. **Discussion of Claim Group II**

Claim Group II comprises claims 9-11 and 15. Since claims 10 and 11 depend from claim 9, and claim 15 is of similar scope (only worded differently), claim 9 has been chosen as the relevant claim for discussion within this group. Independent claim 9 is as follows:

9. A method for transmitting information to a communication device comprising the steps of:

depressing a manually-operative transmit button of
a remote-access unit.
retrieving predefined user identification information
from an internal memory of the remote access unit;
formatting the retrieved user identification
information into a predefined signal for transmission;
transmitting a low-power electromagnetic signal
including the formatted user identification information;
receiving the transmitted electromagnetic signal at
the communication device;
extracting the user information contained within the
transmitted signal; and
transmitting the extracted information over the
telephone line for authorization.

(Emphasis Added)

Gutman fails to disclose at least the method steps that are highlighted above.

In this regard, Gutman fails to disclose the step of "transmitting a low-power electromagnetic signal including the formatted user identification information;" from a remote-access unit to a communication device. Furthermore, Gutman fails to disclose the step of "receiving the transmitted electromagnetic signal at the communication device;" Lastly, in a related manner, Gutman fails to disclose the method step of "transmitting the extracted information over the telephone line for authorization." Gutman fails to disclose the claimed method steps because Gutman does not contemplate the communication device of the present invention. Gutman not only fails to disclose the claimed functionality, but Gutman further fails to disclose structure that is claimed, and that imparts the claimed functionality. At least the foregoing method steps and limitations are missing from Gutman.

If the Office action's rejection of claim 9 is determined to be misplaced, then claims 10, 11, and 15 (Claim Group II) will be allowable, independent of the remainder of the claims. For at least this reason, the claims of Claim Group II do not stand or fall with the claims of any other claim group.

4. **Discussion of Claim Group III**

Claim Group III comprises claims 12 and 13. Since claim 13 depends from independent claim 12, claim 12 has been chosen as the relevant claim for discussion within this group. Independent claim 12 is as follows:

12. A system for providing remote access to a communication device, comprising:
 a communication device;
 a receiver associated with the communication device and configured to receive data transmitted via a electromagnetic waves;
 a remote access unit having a memory configured to store user identification data and a low-power transmitter *further including a transmitter adapted to transmit the user identification data to the receiver via electromagnetic waves*, the remote access unit further having a manually-operated transmit button and a controller responsive to the transmit button to controllably retrieve user identification data from the memory and transmit the user identification data from the low-power transmitter.

(Emphasis Added)

The elements emphasized above are not disclosed in the Gutman reference. Significantly, Gutman does not disclose "a communication device," a "receiver associated with the communication device," or a "remote access unit ... further including a radio frequency (RF) transmitter adapted to transmit the user identification data to the receiver via electromagnetic waves ..."

The Gutman reference has been applied to this claim by alleging that the Financial Institution 512 is a receiver. As previously discussed, Applicant respectfully submits that this rejection is misplaced. Gutman could be more appropriately applied by analogizing the electronic wallet of Gutman to the claimed communication device. Even applying Gutman in such a manner, however, fails to properly render the present application unpatentable, as Gutman fails to disclose the low-power RF transmitter or the corresponding RF receiver.

In this regard, the analysis is similar to that advanced above in connection with claim group 2. Accordingly, and for at least these reasons, independent claim 12 and dependent claim 13 patently define over Gutman.

If the Office action's rejection of claim 12 is determined to be misplaced, then claims 12 and 13 (Claim Group III) will be allowable, independent of the remainder of the claims. For at least this reason, the claims of Claim Group III do not stand or fall with the claims of any other claim group.

5. Discussion of Claim Group IV

Claim Group IV comprises independent claim 14. Claim 14 is as follows:

14. A computer readable storage medium containing program code for controlling the operation of a system for transmitting billing information to a communication device comprising:

a communication device;

receiving means for receiving data transmitted via a electromagnetic waves;

a remote access unit having a memory configured to store user identification data and *a low-power transmitter adapted to transmit the user identification* data to the receiving means via electromagnetic waves, the remote access unit further having a manually-operated transmit button and a controller, responsive to the transmit button, to controllably retrieve user identification data from the memory and transmit the user identification data from the low-power transmitter.

(Emphasis Added)

None of the features emphasized above are disclosed in the reference. As previously described, independent claim 14 is similar to independent claim 12 discussed above. A significant distinction between the claims is that claim 14 recites a "receiving means," whereas, claim 12 recites, "a receiver associated with the communication device . . ." In this regard, the analysis is similar to that advanced above in connection with claim groups 1 and 3. Accordingly, and for at least these reasons, independent claim 14 patently defines over Gutman.

For at least this reason claim 14 is allowable. If the Office action's rejection of claim 14 is determined to be misplaced, then claim 14 (Claim Group IV) will be

allowable, independent of the remainder of the claims. For at least this reason, the claim of Claim Group IV does not stand or fall with the claims of any other claim group.

6. Discussion of Claim Group V

Claim Group V comprises claim 16. It is significant to note that in the Office Action of June 22, 1999, the Examiner rejected claim 16 under 35 U.S.C. §112, paragraph 2, for alleged indefiniteness as to the track one and track two data limitations to the transmitter in the remote access device. Further in this regard, the Office Action failed to make other substantive argument to support a rejection of the claim. In this regard, Applicant makes reference to page 17, lines 7 and 8 of the specification that clearly recite these limitations.

Assuming that the Office Action's failure to address a substantive rejection of claim 16 was an oversight on the part of the Examiner, Applicant offers argument in favor of acceptance of claim 16 below. In this regard, independent claim 16 is as follows:

16. A system for providing remote access to a communication device, comprising:
a communication device disposed for communication with a financial institution via a telecommunication link;
a remote access device having a single user-depressable button, a memory configured to store user identification data, a low-power transmitter, and a controller configured to control the transmitter *to transmit the track one and track two data in direct response to a manual depression of the user-depressable button, without any verification of user identification data*, the controller being configured to control the transmitter to transmit a plurality of

synchronization bits preceding the user identification data;
and

a receiver disposed within the communication device, the receiver configured to receive information transmitted via electromagnetic waves, wherein the receiver is specifically configured to receive user identification data transmitted from the remote access unit by recognizing and synchronizing to the synchronization bits.

(Emphasis Added)

None of the features emphasized above are disclosed in the Gutman reference.

Significantly, Gutman does not disclose "a communication device disposed for communication with a financial institution via a telecommunication link;" a "low-power transmitter . . . to transmit the track one and track two data in direct response to a manual depression of the user-depressable button, without any verification of user identification data;" or a "receiver disposed within the communication device . . ." For at least these reasons, claim 16 is allowable over Gutman.

If the Office action's rejection of claim 16 is determined to be misplaced, then claims 16 (Claim Group V) will be allowable, independent of the remainder of the claims. For at least this reason, the claim of Claim Group V does not stand or fall with the claims of any other claim group.

Application of Thomas D. Petite
Ser. No. 08/910,980

C. CONCLUSION

Based upon the foregoing discussion, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner's final rejection of claims 1-16 be overruled and withdrawn by the Board, and that the application be allowed to issue as a patent with all pending claims 1-16.

A check in the amount of \$150.00 is enclosed herewith to cover the fee for filing this appeal brief. No additional fee is believed to be due. If, however, any additional fee is that may be due or required is authorized to be charged to Deposit Account No. 20-0778.

Respectfully submitted,



Daniel R. McClure
Registration No. 38,962

THOMAS, KAYDEN, HORSTEMEYER & RISLEY, L.L.P.
100 Galleria Parkway, Suite 1500
Atlanta, Georgia 30339
(770) 933-9500

IX. APPENDIX

Claims

1. A system for transmitting billing information to a communication device, comprising:

receiving means operatively associated with the communication device for receiving data transmitted via a electromagnetic waves; and

a remote access unit having a memory configured to store user identification data and a low-power transmitter adapted to transmit the user identification data to the receiving means via electromagnetic waves, the remote access unit further having a manually-operated transmit button and a controller, responsive to the transmit button, to controllably retrieve user identification data from the memory and transmit the user identification data from the low-power transmitter.
2. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein the user identification data includes an financial account number.
3. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein the user identification data includes a long distancing billing account number.

4. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein the receiving means receives electromagnetic data in a wavelength selected from the group consisting of:

radio frequency;

ultrasonic; and

infra-red.

5. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein electronic circuitry that carries out the functionality of the remote access unit is contained within a single integrated circuit.

6. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein the remote access unit includes means for formatting the user identification data into a data packet for transmission to the receiving means.

7. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein the remote access unit further includes a second transmit button.

8. The system as defined in claim 1, wherein the communication device is one selected from the group consisting of: a telephone, a modem, an ISDN converter, and a cable box.

9. A method for transmitting information to a communication device comprising the steps of:

- depressing a manually-operative transmit button of a remote-access unit.
- retrieving predefined user identification information from an internal memory of the remote access unit;
- formatting the retrieved user identification information into a predefined signal for transmission;
- transmitting a low-power electromagnetic signal including the formatted user identification information;
- receiving the transmitted electromagnetic signal at the communication device;
- extracting the user information contained within the transmitted signal;
- and
- transmitting the extracted information over the telephone line for authorization.

10. The method as defined in claim 9, further including the step of authorizing use of the communication device, based upon information obtained received in response to the step of transmitting the extracted information for authorization.

11. The method as defined in claim 9, wherein the step of transmitting a low-power electromagnetic signal includes transmitting a low-power radio frequency signal.

12. A system for providing remote access to a communication device, comprising:

- a communication device;
- a receiver associated with the communication device and configured to receive data transmitted via a electromagnetic waves;
- a remote access unit having a memory configured to store user identification data and a low-power transmitter further including a transmitter adapted to transmit the user identification data to the receiver via electromagnetic waves, the remote access unit further having a manually-operated transmit button and a controller responsive to the transmit button to controllably retrieve user identification data from the memory and transmit the user identification data from the low-power transmitter.

13. The system as defined in claim 12, wherein the communication device includes a magnetic card reader.

14. A computer readable storage medium containing program code for controlling the operation of a system for transmitting billing information to a communication device comprising:

- a communication device;
- receiving means for receiving data transmitted via a electromagnetic waves;
- a remote access unit having a memory configured to store user identification data and a low-power transmitter adapted to transmit the user identification data to the receiving means via electromagnetic waves, the remote access unit further having a manually-operated transmit button and a controller, responsive to the transmit button, to controllably retrieve user identification data from the memory and transmit the user identification data from the low-power transmitter.

15. A computer readable storage medium containing program code for transmitting user identification information to a communication device comprising the steps of:

depressing a manually-operative transmit button of a remote-access unit.

retrieving predefined user identification information from an internal memory of the remote access unit;

formatting the retrieved user identification information into a predefined signal for transmission;

transmitting a low-power electromagnetic signal including the formatted user identification information;

receiving the transmitted electromagnetic signal at the communication device;

extracting the user information contained within the transmitted signal;

and

transmitting the extracted information over the communication device line for authorization.

16. A system for providing remote access to a communication device, comprising:

- a communication device disposed for communication with a financial institution via a telecommunication link;
- a remote access device having a single user-depressable button, a memory configured to store user identification data, a low-power transmitter, and a controller configured to control the transmitter to transmit the track one and track two data in direct response to a manual depression of the user-depressable button, without any verification of user identification data, the controller being configured to control the transmitter to transmit a plurality of synchronization bits preceding the user identification data; and
- a receiver disposed within the communication device, the receiver configured to receive information transmitted via electromagnetic waves, wherein the receiver is specifically configured to receive user identification data transmitted from the remote access unit by recognizing and synchronizing to the synchronization bits.